

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A digital camera comprising:
 - an imaging device for imaging a subject and outputting an image signal representing a subject image obtained by the imaging;
 - a zoom lens whose focal distance can be changed;
 - a focus lens for focusing;
 - a focus detecting circuit for detecting a focusing position of the focus lens on the basis of integration values of the image signal outputted from said imaging device;
 - distance measurement means for measuring the distance to the subject on the basis of the focusing position of the focus lens detected by the focus detecting circuit;
 - a signal amplifier for amplifying the image signal outputted from said imaging device ;
 - first judgment means for judging whether or not the irradiation distance of a strobe which is obtained on the basis of the f-stop value of said zoom lens is shorter than the distance to the subject which is measured by said distance measurement means; and
 - amplification factor control means for increasing the amplification factor of said signal amplifier when said first judgment means judges that the irradiation distance of the strobe is shorter than the distance to the subject.
2. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising

second judgment means for judging whether or not the subject image represented by the image signal amplified by said signal amplifier whose amplification factor has been increased by said amplification factor control means satisfies predetermined brightness, and

said amplification factor control means further increasing the amplification factor of said signal amplifier when said second judgment means judges that the subject image represented by the amplified imaging signal does not satisfy predetermined brightness.

3. (Previously Presented) In a digital camera for focusing a subject image on a light receiving surface of a solid-state electronic imaging device by a zoom lens whose focal distance can be changed, outputting an image signal representing the subject image from said solid-state electronic imaging device, and amplifying the outputted image signal, a method of controlling the digital camera comprising the steps of:

detecting a focusing position of a focus lens on the basis of integration values of the image signal output from said imaging device;

measuring the distance to a subject on the basis of the detected focusing position of the focus lens;

judging whether or not the irradiation distance of a strobe which is obtained on the basis of the f-stop value of said zoom lens is shorter than the measured distance to the subject; and

increasing an amplification factor for amplifying the obtained image signal when it is judged that the irradiation distance of the strobe is shorter than the distance to the subject.

4. (New) The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein

the focus detecting circuit comprises a high-pass filter for extracting a high-frequency signal component from the image signal outputted from the imaging device.

5. (New) The digital camera according to claim 4, wherein

the focus detecting circuit comprises an integrating circuit for integrating the high-frequency signal component outputted from the high-pass filter for a predetermined time period.

6. (New) The digital camera according to claim 5, wherein

the focus detecting circuit puts the focus lens at the position where the level of the output data from the integrating circuit reaches the peak value.